Accountability Report

2015–2016

Intergovernmental Affairs

NOVA SCOTIA

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Accountability Statement

The Accountability Report for the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs for the year ending March 31, 2016 is prepared pursuant to the *Finance Act* and government policies and guidelines. These authorities require the reporting of outcomes against the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs Statement of Mandate for the fiscal year 2015-16. The reporting of the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs outcomes necessarily includes estimates, judgments and opinions by the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs management.

We acknowledge that this accountability report is the responsibility of the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs management. The report is, to the extent possible, a complete and accurate representation of outcomes relative to the goals and priorities set out in the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs 2015-16 Statement of Mandate.

Department of Intergovernmental Affairs

Original signed by

Minister _____
Premier Stephen McNeil

Original signed by

Deputy Minister _____
Kelliann Dean

Message from the Minister and Deputy Minister

It is our pleasure to present the Accountability Report for the Nova Scotia Department of Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA) which highlights the department's progress and achievements for the 2015-16 fiscal year.

Intergovernmental Affairs' mandate is to coordinate and advance Nova Scotia's interests with the Government of Canada, other provinces, and foreign governments at national and sub-national levels. The Department serves as a central point of contact for the coordination of the province's intergovernmental priorities and activities. Intergovernmental Affairs is also responsible for the operation of the Protocol Office and Government House.

A key objective of the Province is development of international relations. In an increasingly interdependent and competitive world, intergovernmental relations has become an integral part of setting the conditions for business and investment growth and for increasing our prosperity. In support of this, in 2015-2016 IGA led the development of the China Engagement Strategy that was publicly released in April 2016. In addition, IGA invested in existing and new relationships, broadening our trade policy, and coordinating Premier-led missions to the European Union, South Korea, Japan, and China. As a result, the Province developed and enhanced government and trade linkages with priority countries in the areas of: education; energy; ocean technology; tourism; gateway/transportation; and, investment attraction. These efforts strategically positioned and showcased Nova Scotia businesses and institutions for commercial relationships and partnership opportunities.

There are a multitude of areas of mutual interest and shared jurisdiction in the relationships between Nova Scotia, the provinces and territories, and the Government of Canada.

As a member of the Canadian Federation we appreciate the importance of having strong relationships and working cooperatively and collaboratively with our partners in order to better serve Nova Scotians. IGA is committed to ensuring Nova Scotia maintains a strong voice within the Canadian Federation. In this regard, IGA has supported departments in their activities with other governments; advancing Nova Scotia's interests and resolving issues; and coordinating the development of corporate intergovernmental positions on a wide range of policy priorities. Through the Council of the Federation and the Council of Atlantic Premiers, Nova Scotia has pursued and led

regional and federal policy collaboration which included regional harmonization and red tape reduction.

Nova Scotia has advocated for the interests of veterans, supported local projects which recognize the service of veterans and, fostered a positive and mutually beneficial relationship with the Canadian Forces.

The successes of 2015-16 also extend to the work of our Office of Protocol and our Office of the Lieutenant Governor/Government House. These offices fulfilled a broad range of functions: from planning and supporting official visits, including the private visits of HRH Prince Edward; to showcasing our culture and history to the world.

As this report details, in 2015-16 Intergovernmental Affairs made significant strides towards delivering on our government's mandate to expand our access to trade markets and ensure Nova Scotia's economic prosperity.

Original signed by

The Honourable Stephen McNeil
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Original signed by

Kelliann Dean
Deputy Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Financial Results

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS		
	2015-16 Estimate	2015-16 Actual
	($ thousands)	($ thousands)
Operations	2,516	2,637
Government House	814	800
Protocol Office	495	383
Total Gross Departmental Expenses	3,825	3820
Additional Information:		
Fees and Other Charges	0	0
Ordinary Recoveries	30	113
TCA Purchase Requirements	0	0
Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs)	33.5	29.5

Measuring Our Results

For 2015-16, Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA) used quantitative, survey-based research from its key clients to help assess its performance. The research was conducted in May 2016 for the year 2015-16, among 53 key clients representing 22 departments and Provincial bodies that have had the most significant involvement with IGA over the year. The survey had a response rate of 100%. This gives IGA a high degree of confidence that the views expressed are fully representative of its key clients that have a significant stake in their dealings with IGA.

The results of the survey and other available measures, are summarized below. The survey address each of Intergovernmental Affairs' six core business areas, specifically:

1. Government of Canada Relations,
2. Provincial/Territorial Relations,
3. International Relations,
4. Trade Policy,
5. Protocol, and
6. Government House.

Overall Performance

Overall, 80% of respondents indicated that they are satisfied or very satisfied with Intergovernmental Affairs' performance and 15% were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (i.e., neutral). This is an improvement from the proceeding 2013-14 client survey that indicated that 73% of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied; and 13% neutral.

Through the survey, participants were asked to provide written feedback about what IGA did well and/or what it could improve upon in the future. The responses, were both positive and constructive, and are summarized below:

- *IGA "provides good strategic advice on corporate Federal/Provincial/Territorial interests and helpful in facilitating departmental interests..."*
- *Staff have been "a very valuable resource..."*
- *"the interaction I have had ... has been good."*
- *"IGA staff are always very helpful...quick to respond and their expertise is invaluable..."*

- *"...very responsive and actively participates in intergovernmental relationship work".*
- *"All our dealings with IGA have been acceptable"..."I look forward to working with IGA in the future".*

To give a better sense of IGA's progress, results from the 2015-16 survey are integrated into the following description of the department's performance in the six core business areas, and are compared to the results from previous 2013-14 survey.

While each of the survey responses that follow indicate a generally positive level of satisfaction, IGA recognizes that there is always room for improvement. In this regard, in 2016-17 it will work towards further improvement of its services.

1. Government of Canada Relations

Intergovernmental Affairs recognizes the importance of maintaining effective relations with the Government of Canada, with an objective of conveying and advancing Nova Scotian interests in federal public policy.

Intergovernmental Affairs' 2015-16 Statement of Mandate defined three outcomes regarding relations with the Government of Canada:

a. **To provide effective approaches to developing Nova Scotia positions and strategies on federal policy.**
b. **To provide effective engagement in advancing constructive dialogue on Nova Scotia's federal-provincial priorities.**
c. **To influence Government of Canada policy and decision making.**

Outcomes

a. **To provide effective approaches to developing Nova Scotia positions and strategies on federal policy.**

IGA addressed this goal by engaging with provincial departments on a regular basis to discuss significant federal-provincial issues and approaches for influencing federal decision-making. It also worked with departments to frame issues and provide advice to the Premier for advancing the Nova Scotia agenda at bilateral and national meetings.

In addition, there are many areas where Intergovernmental Affairs worked with departments to develop advice on federal-provincial priority areas of interest; for example, funding agreements, innovation, energy, trade, skills and training, immigration and climate change.

In the 2015-16 performance survey, when key clients were asked if IGA developed useful approaches and strategy to respond to federal policy issues, 95% of survey respondents expressed that they were in agreement or neutral. This is a small improvement over the previous 2013-14 survey where 92% of the respondents were in agreement or neutral.

b. **To provide effective engagement in advancing constructive dialogue on Nova Scotia's federal-provincial priorities.**

Throughout the year, Intergovernmental Affairs staff were actively engaged in supporting departments by providing briefing support to assist Ministers and other officials to effectively position and advance Nova Scotia's priorities and issues with the federal government. They also provided analyses, advice and logistical support for the Premier, as Minister of IGA and Minister responsible for Military Relations, in preparation for engagements with the Government of Canada.

In 2015-16, 89% of client-survey respondents indicated that they were in agreement that IGA was helpful in assisting their departments advance Nova Scotia's federal-provincial priorities; with the remaining 11% indicating that they were neutral. This measure surpassed the department's goal to have 80% of survey respondents in agreement. This is also a significant improvement over the previous survey results where the proportion of agreement and neutral responses were 58% and 25% respectively.

c. **To influence Government of Canada policy and decision making**

The ability to influence Government of Canada policy and decision making is often the result of several, complex interventions by both Intergovernmental Affairs and departments in bilateral and multi-lateral government-to-government discussions.

Some of the main areas of focus in 2015-16 were:

- Fast tracking the settlement of over 1,000 Syrian refugees in Nova Scotia.

- Reducing pharmaceutical costs through national joint procurement, and working with other governments on a National Pharmacare Strategy.
- Address the needs of an aging population; increase homecare, and provide family supports in child care and increased funding through the Canada Health Transfer.
- Reducing climate change and greenhouse gases, and demonstrating leadership through its Made-in-Nova Scotia (regulatory) approach.
- Fostering greater collaboration in the negotiations of international free trade agreements.
- Enhancing public infrastructure to support the growth of the economy and enhance productivity
- Evaluating the Emergency Management Framework for Canada, and expanding the funding of the National Mitigation Program to cover events such as wildfires, ice storms and landslides.

In 2015-16, 71% of client-survey respondents indicated that they were in agreement that IGA contributed positively to efforts to influence federal-provincial decision-making; with the remaining 29% neutral respondents. This is a marked improvement from 2013-14 where 50% of respondents were in agreement and 33% neutral.

2. Provincial/Territorial Relations

Intergovernmental Affairs' 2015-16 Statement of Mandate defined outcomes relating to the Department's relations with provincial and territorial governments. These included:

a. To identify and implement Provincial/Territorial opportunities for strategic collaboration on federal provincial/territorial programs and services.
b. For Nova Scotia to demonstrate regional leadership and collaboration on key files of interest to the province.

Outcomes

a. To identify and implement Provincial/Territorial opportunities for strategic collaboration on federal/provincial/territorial (F/P/T) programs and services.

Through regular and structured engagement with departments, IGA pursued a number of strategic initiatives with other provincial and territorial jurisdictions.

Through the Council of the Federation (CoF) the Premier continued to advance areas of shared interest with the provinces and territories, such as cooperation on labour and skills development, and identifying and addressing issues related to infrastructure, senior's care and aging. Premiers (through CoF) met three times during the 2015-16 fiscal year.

Some of the highlights and outcomes of the July 2015 CoF Summer meeting included:

- A Memorandum of Understanding regarding National Apprenticeship Mobility was signed by all Provinces and Territories in July 2015. This work was led by Nova Scotia and will help to strengthen and modernize internal trade in Canada, reduce labour mobility barriers, and will help to build a skilled domestic workforce.
- The release of the *Canadian Energy Strategy* that demonstrates a Pan-Canadian commitment to strengthen the economy, create jobs, ensure a secure supply of energy for all Canadians, and support energy innovation and address climate change.
- Premiers directed their Ministers of Justice to explore ways to improve policies and processes that will improve maintenance enforcement and lead to more payments being received – no matter where the payer lives in Canada. This work is being led by Nova Scotia, with Newfoundland and Labrador and British Columbia acting as co-chairs.

In 2015-16, 80% of client-survey respondents were in agreement that IGA helped in identifying and implementing Provincial/Territorial opportunities for strategic collaboration on F/P/T programs and services; 20% were neutral responses. This represents an improvement from the previous survey where 73% of the respondents were in agreement and 18% were neutral.

b. For Nova Scotia to demonstrate regional leadership and collaboration on key files of interest to the province.

The outcome to *demonstrate regional leadership* was supported at the Atlantic level primarily though participation in the forum of the Council of Atlantic Premiers (CAP). Through CAP, Premiers focused on reducing red tape and regulatory reform,

increasing labour mobility, and furthering cooperation on issues such as energy, immigration and tourism.

In 2015-16 Nova Scotia and New Brunswick Premiers met and formed a joint NS-NB Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness to reduce the regulatory burden on citizens and businesses. Later in the year Prince Edward Island joined the Office of Regulatory Affairs, committing all three provinces to a shared approach to regulatory reform and to initiate an open dialogue with the Federal Government. Specific actions outlined for the new office included developing a common approach to procurement, records management, and moving towards adopting shared dates for minimum wage changes within the region.

In June 2015 and February 2016, the Council of Atlantic Premiers met to discuss issues facing Atlantic Canada. For example, these meetings focused on enhancing efforts in the areas of regional cooperation, health care, climate change, energy, and promoting Atlantic Canada. Premiers continued to focus on economic growth and job creation to further improve the lives of Atlantic Canadians. During the June meeting, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to create conditions for increased apprentice mobility was signed by the Atlantic Provinces, as part of the Atlantic Harmonization Project. This agreement aims to enhance population growth and fill employment gaps. These discussions helped prepare the region for the summer CoF meeting.

In addition to the above mentioned agreement, Nova Scotia entered into a MOU with British Columbia in July 2015 to enhance training and mobility for shipbuilding and marine workers, to ensure employers in both provinces have access to a qualified workforce.

In February 2016, New Brunswick hosted a meeting of Atlantic Premiers and members of the Federal Cabinet representing Atlantic Canada to strengthen federal-provincial cooperation and identify areas of opportunities to advance the unique needs and interests of the region. Discussions focused on opportunities to grow the region's population, while addressing demographic challenges, job and economic growth, climate change, developing tourism opportunities, and strengthening support for health care and services for seniors.

In 2015-16, 87% of client-survey respondents were in agreement that IGA provided leadership in fostering regional collaboration through formal mechanisms that it is involved in (e.g., Council of the Federation); and 13% were neutral responses. This again is an improvement over the 2013-14 survey results where 77% were in agreement and 23% neutral.

3. International Relations

Intergovernmental Affairs' 2015-16 Statement of Mandate defined three outcomes relating to Intergovernmental Affairs' International Relations. These included:

a. **To advance Nova Scotia's interests with priority countries**
b. **To maximize the Premier's role in facilitating and advancing Nova Scotia's interests through international business development opportunities, investment attraction, and trade opportunities.**

Outcomes

a. **To advance Nova Scotia's interests with priority countries.**

This outcome is achieved through its support and advice to the Premier, coordination with provincial stakeholders, and Premier-led (inbound and outbound) engagements with foreign governments and business representatives.

The Province has identified three strategic international markets: Northeastern and Southeastern United States, North and Western Europe, and China. While these strategic markets are the main focus of Nova Scotia's international efforts, the Province does engage beyond these markets where opportunities coincide with Nova Scotia's interests.

Within this scope, IGA continued to develop and enhance meaningful international relationships, and created conditions for success by establishing a stronger Nova Scotia global presence. IGA is leading the province's foreign engagement coordination internally and externally; consulting with stakeholders; developing trade and business through (inbound and outbound) missions and Nova Scotia-to-foreign governments/business promotion. These activities help to create business opportunities that contribute to the long-term economic vitality of Nova Scotia, and add value to the efforts of Nova Scotia businesses and institutions interested in pursuing global opportunities.

In 2015-16, IGA provided advice and coordinated executive visits and trade missions led by the Premier to the European Union, South Korea, China, Japan, and the United States. As a result, the Province of Nova Scotia developed and enhanced government and trade links with priority countries in the areas of education, energy, ocean technology, tourism and gateway/transportation, and pursued investments

and trade in Nova Scotia. It also contributed significantly to strategically positioning and showcasing Nova Scotia businesses and institutions for enhancing commercial relationships and partnership opportunities. China became Nova Scotia's number two trade importer in 2015 with exports of $420 million.

In May 2015, the Premier led a delegation to the European Union, meeting with governments, businesses, and academic officials in Scotland, England, and Germany to promote Nova Scotia businesses and institutions. The European Union currently represents about $490 million per year of export trade for Nova Scotia.

The mission included nearly 30 speaking engagements, meetings and roundtables, and supported 14 Nova Scotia firms in their marketing efforts. Premier McNeil and the delegation flew to Glasgow, Scotland on WestJet's inaugural Halifax-Glasgow flight as part of the official marketing launch of the service. This new route creates expanded markets and is beneficial to both Nova Scotia businesses and the hospitality and tourism industries. While in Glasgow, Tourism Nova Scotia and VisitScotland signed a MOU to collaborate, share and improve knowledge and developmental processes for tourism and tourism destinations.

The Department of Intergovernmental Affairs continues to build and strengthen its relationship with Asia markets, making significant gains in the area of seafood exports, education, manufacturing, and research partnerships. In September 2015, the Premier met with officials and key business institutions throughout China, Japan, and South Korea. The mission to Asia promoted trade and investment opportunities for Nova Scotia business and institutions and the Premier. During this mission, two Nova Scotia universities and one business signed partnership agreements. This mission was followed up by a senior executive and business mission in November 2015 to further develop and enhance these relationships. A key focus of these missions is the promotion of Nova Scotia's seafood exports. As a result of this effort, exports are nearing the *One* Nova Scotia's 2014 goal of doubling in value within a decade.

The missions and related activities also served to help strengthen existing relationships between business investors in Nova Scotia, and focused on targeted investment-attraction meetings that led to a number of positive outcomes that are summarized below:

- *Nova Scotia - China Engagement Strategy*, that was finalized and publically released in April 2016

- Tourism Nova Scotia signed a Memorandum of Understanding with VisitScotland
- Nova Scotia export growth
- University and business partnerships created
- Continued support for relief efforts in Nepal and Syria

In 2015-16, 67% of client-survey respondents agreed that IGA contributed significantly to establishing integrated plans and making informed decisions on how to advance Nova Scotia's international interests and values in priority markets; and the remainder were neutral responses. This compares favourably with the results of the previous survey that indicated 43% of respondents were in agreement and 43% neutral.

b. To maximize the Premier's role in advancing Nova Scotia's position internationally on business development opportunities, investment attraction, and trade opportunities.

This outcome has been achieved through a number of activities and initiatives, including Premier led forums, international executive and diplomatic visits, meetings and international trade missions.

In June 2015, Nova Scotia participated at the annual South-Eastern United States Governors and Canadian Premiers Alliance that focused on *Clustering Companies and Organizations to Increase Economic Benefit.* The meeting provided a forum for Premiers and Governors to share views and learn from international experts and business leaders about the opportunities and challenges of cross-border investment and trade. In addition, the meeting set the stage for over 600 business-to-business meetings to explore possible partnerships, investment opportunities and best practices.

The 39th Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers was held in St. John's, Newfoundland in August 2015. The following were outcomes of this meeting:

- **Resolution 39-1** *Climate Change,* which will focus on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the development of the Climate Change Steering Committee to work in collaboration with the Transportation and Air Quality Committee and the Northeast International Committee on Energy.

- **Resolution 39-2** *The Canada-US Preclearance Agreement and the Customs Preclearance Project for Central Station in Montréal*
- **Resolution 39-3** *Mutual Aid in Emergency Situations*, which calls on the federal authorities to maintain and strengthen collaboration and support for cross-border preparedness and mutual aid.

In December 2015, the Premier led a mission to Boston where he promoted Nova Scotia exports to the governor of Massachusetts and other public and private sector leaders. The meetings focused on improving air-service markets, promoting Nova Scotia's post-secondary institutions and the Province as a tourism and business destination. The mission also served to strategically position and showcase Nova Scotia's growing information communication technology sector and export opportunities in the energy sector.

Finally, the Province hosted a number of international delegations including economic and trade counsellors from the European Union, dignitaries and diplomats from China and Hong Kong, as well as senior executives with global corporations. IGA led and assisted with eight official inbound missions, numerous executive visits and private sector meetings. These included dignitaries and officials from Austria, China, Cuba, and Denmark, as well as economic trade councillors from the European Union, France, Kazakhstan and a delegation of US Rising State Legislators. These initiatives were carried out in collaboration with line departments, businesses and key stakeholders, and set the stage for Nova Scotia's international business expansion efforts in 2015-16 and beyond.

4. Trade Policy

The Trade Policy division at IGA is responsible for advancing Nova Scotia's interests in domestic and international trade negotiations and agreements. These agreements govern the cross-border movement of goods, agricultural products, services and investment, and government procurement across a range of sectors, and provide trade remedy rules.

The goal of Trade Policy is to ensure effective rules-based systems are in place that support Nova Scotia's priorities in trade in goods and services, investment, regulatory cooperation, procurement and labour mobility.

Three outcomes relate to the work of the Trade Policy Division:

a. **Nova Scotia's interests are advanced and the government of Nova Scotia is seen as a constructive collaborator in the negotiation of domestic and international trade agreements.**
b. **Trade risks and compliance issues are anticipated and mitigated.**
c. **Nova Scotia's interests are effectively managed in disputes.**

Fiscal year 2015-16 represents a transition year for the Intergovernmental Affairs Trade Policy division. For the purposes of accountability, the trade policy division will report on activities undertaken through the year, including significant negotiation activities, important consultations with other departments. The performance indicator to be used henceforth will be the percentage of clients satisfied with services that support a stable set of rules for Nova Scotia's exports and investments.

Outcomes

a. **Nova Scotia's interests are advanced and the government of Nova Scotia is seen as a constructive collaborator in the negotiation of domestic and international trade agreements.**

Renewal of Agreement on Internal Trade

2015-16 was an active year for negotiations. In August 2014, Canada's Premiers directed their trade ministers to negotiate a comprehensive renewal of the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT) by working toward an ambitious, balanced and equitable agreement that levels the playing field for trade within Canada. The Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT), signed in 1995, is the agreement that governs trade *within* Canada. The objective of the agreement is to reduce and eliminate, to the extent possible, barriers to the free movement of persons, goods, services and investments within Canada and to establish an open, efficient, and stable domestic market.

The Trade Division has participated in twenty negotiating rounds since late 2014, supported four Ministerial meetings since April 2015, in addition to advancing Nova Scotia's interests in numerous teleconferences and bilateral discussions.

The Division has undertaken consultations with government departments to identify Nova Scotia's interests throughout the process. The interests are divided into two categories: defensive (measures and sectors NS wants to exclude from the application of the agreement), and offensive (measures and sectors of other parties

that result in trade barriers for Nova Scotian companies, seeking to trade with other provinces and territories).

AIT negotiations are still active. The renewed agreement's text is well advanced and progress has been made towards finalizing the rules, with an anticipated conclusion sometime in 2016-17.

Softwood Lumber Agreement

On October 12, 2015, the *Softwood Lumber Agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States of America (SLA 2006)* expired. This initiated a one year standstill period prohibiting any trade actions (litigation). The Government of Canada is seeking to reach a new agreement with the United States before the expiry of this standstill period, to avoid being subject to any trade disputes. Lumber produced in the Atlantic (Maritime) region was excluded from export measures in the Softwood Lumber Agreement (2006) and as it was in all previous agreements dating back to the 1980's. The rationale for this exclusion was that the majority of all softwood lumber production in the Maritime region was generated from privately owned timberlands, and that the amount of government contribution is *de minimis*. The situation remains much the same today, with a high percentage of production coming off of private land leading to market-based processes being used to set Crown stumpage prices.

The Trade Policy Division has worked closely with the Department of Natural Resources, Atlantic Lumber Producers, the Governments of New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador to ensure that the Government of Canada reflects the regional position in negotiations with the United States.

Internationally, the Trade Policy Division began preliminary work to plan for the implementation and ratification of the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

The Division has ongoing interactions with Global Affairs Canada and NS Government departments to assess interests in future negotiations, such as prospective Free Trade Agreements with China, Japan, and India.

b. Trade risks and compliance issues are anticipated and mitigated.

The Trade Policy Division provides ongoing advice to departments on the trade obligations associated with provincial measures. Risk assessment is routinely undertaken with respect to the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA),

Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT), and various World Trade Organization agreements. In 2015-16, the Division handled an average of two complex proposals for legislative, regulatory or policy change per month. In addition to risk assessment, this activity also involves providing advice on changes to Nova Scotia legislation and regulations to ensure compliance with trade obligations.

c. **Nova Scotia's interests are effectively managed in disputes.**

In collaboration with internal and external legal counsel, the Division was responsible for managing a number of trade disputes involving Nova Scotia in 2015-16. The Division coordinated the Government of Nova Scotia's response into the US Countervailing Duties petition against Supercalendered Paper from Canada and an investment dispute with Bilcon of Delaware.

Active monitoring of NS offensive trade interests was undertaken by the Division, including ongoing assessment of a potential European Union ban of importation of North American live lobster.

5. Protocol

Intergovernmental Affairs' 2015-16 Statement of Mandate defined two main areas of focus relating to Intergovernmental Affairs' Protocol function. These areas of focus and related achievements for the year are highlighted below:

a. **Other governments understand Nova Scotia's interests.**
b. **Nova Scotia and its people have a national and international profile.**

Outcomes

a. **Other governments understand Nova Scotia's interests.**

The outcome related to making *Nova Scotia's interests known to other governments* was achieved through the following activities:

- The Protocol Office promoted the interests of Nova Scotia by ensuring that all diplomatic visits were matched with the Province's strategic interests and with appropriate departmental and ministerial advice, consultation and

representation. In total, it managed effectively 14 diplomatic visits over the fiscal year.

- Coordinated follow up activity. Protocol co-ordinates with IGA, the Premier's Office and other agencies and departments as required.
- On a day-to-day basis the Protocol Office provided protocol advice to its provincial government departments, the public and consular community.

b. Nova Scotia and its people have a national and international profile.

The outcome related *to increasing the profile of the Province and its people*, can be attributed in part to the following accomplishments:

- The Protocol Office coordinated the Order of Nova Scotia program. Its outreach efforts resulted in more than a 100 nominations, reflecting a successful outreach to citizens using traditional and social media.
- Of these, five Nova Scotians were selected and honored with the Order of Nova Scotia, and their accomplishments showcased with strong internet and media attention.
- Successful planning and support of official visits by dignitaries and diplomats, and the hosting of representatives from other jurisdictions, helped to project the province in a positive light and facilitate cross-cultural communication and trade. For example, Protocol Staff assisted in the private visit by HRH Prince Edward, as well as the visit of the French vessel Hermione in Lunenburg.
- The Protocol Gift Bank was effective in increasing the visibility of Nova Scotia inside and outside the Province, through sales of local arts and products. It made 1,439 transactions of sales in 2015-16 and represented 103 provincial artists, (up 10% from 2014-15).

In regards to the 2015-16 client survey a decision was made to discontinue the use of the measure that deals with respondents being asked if they were in agreement that "the Protocol Office at IGA was helpful in addressing their protocol needs". The reason for this decision was that the survey was not adequately targeting the broad range of departmental staff that use their services. For this reason other measures will be assessed for the next biennial survey in 2017-18.

6. Government House

An important aspect of Intergovernmental Affairs is its operation of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor/Government House. Intergovernmental Affairs provides, administrative and logistical support enabling the Lieutenant Governor to exercise the constitutional powers and responsibilities of the Office and to undertake representational, ceremonial and civic duties.

The outcomes that relate specifically to supporting the goals central to the mandate of the Lieutenant Governor are as follows:

a. **To fulfill the constitutionally defined and legal function of the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia.**
b. **To support communities and the people in Nova Scotia by celebrating their accomplishments, people and history.**

Outcomes

a. **To fulfill the constitutionally defined and legal function of the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia.**

The outcome *to fulfill the constitutionally defined and legal function of the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia* has been achieved through a number of activities and initiatives.

The Lieutenant Governor and Administrator granted Royal Assent to 60 Bills, presided over two Royal Assent ceremonies, one Speech from the Throne Ceremony/Opening of the Legislature. The Lieutenant Governor and Administrator signed 425 Orders-in-Council. The Lieutenant Governor also signed and had sealed 219 document authentications and 104 notary appointment commission documents for the Department of Justice.

b. **To support communities and the people in Nova Scotia by celebrating their accomplishments, people and history.**

The outcome to *support communities and the people in Nova Scotia by celebrating their accomplishments, people and history* was fulfilled in many ways.

In addition to hosting HRH Prince Edward at Government House where 9 Working Royal Tour related events took place, the Lieutenant Governor presided over 4 investitures at Government House, participated in 16 awards ceremonies, 134 external events, 40 receptions/volunteer recognition events at Government House, along with 32 other events and courtesy calls. In total the Lieutenant Governor delivered 157 speeches and greetings. A total of 710 retirement and anniversary certificates were issued. Government House played host to approximately 12,720 visitors. For the third year in a row Government House was a lead participant in Doors Open Halifax and Nocturne Halifax "art at night," garnering 3,275 visitors for these events.

Annual Report under Section 18 of the Public Interest Disclosure of Wrongdoing Act

The *Public Interest Disclosure of Wrongdoing Act* was proclaimed into law on December 20, 2011.

The Act provides for government employees to be able to come forward if they reasonably believe that a wrongdoing has been committed or is about to be committed and they are acting in good faith.

The Act also protects employees who do disclose from reprisals, by enabling them to lay a complaint of reprisal with the Labor Board.

A Wrongdoing for the purposes of the Act is:

a. a contravention of Provincial or Federal laws or regulations;
b. a misuse or gross mismanagement of public funds or assets;
c. an act or omission that creates an imminent risk of a substantial and specific danger to the life, health or safety of persons or the environment; or
d. directing or counseling someone to commit a wrongdoing.

The following is a summary of disclosures received by Intergovernmental Affairs:

Information Required under Section18 of the Act	Fiscal Year 2014-15
The number of disclosures received	0
The number of findings of wrongdoing	0
Details of each wrongdoing (insert separate row for each wrongdoing)	N/A
Recommendations and actions taken on each wrongdoing (insert separate row for each wrongdoing)	N/A